Development", the following programmes were organised for the Youth/School children:—

(i) On the Spot painting competition for different age groups,
(ii) Quiz Programme,
(iii) Work shops,
(iv) Film show,
(v) Slide show etc.

उत्तर प्रदेश के गढ़वाल और कुमाऊं मण्डल में डाकघर

1795. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्र गढ़वाल और कुमाऊं मण्डल में डाक व्यवस्था को सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए नए डाक-घर/शाखा डाकघर खोलने की किसी योजना पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) और (ख) पहाड़ी, रेगिस्तानी और दुर्गम क्षेत्रों को सामान्य क्षेत्रों की तुलना में जनसंख्या तथा आय संबंधी मानदण्डों में छूट प्रदान करके विशेष रियायत दी जाती है। डाकघर खोलने के लक्ष्य डाक सर्किलवार आबंटित किए जाते हैं तथा डाकघर मानदण्ड पर आधारित औचित्य होने पर खोले जाते हैं।

वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान, उत्तर प्रदेश के गढ़वाल डिवीजन में निम्नलिखित अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघर खोले गए हैं:—

1. लाहली (देहरादून);
2. बालासौर (पौडी); और
3. मरगांव (उत्तर काशी)

(ग) उपर्युक्त (क) और (ख) को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

STD Capacity in Hyderabad

1796. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only 10% STD capacity utilisation in Hyderabad Telecom from 11 P.M. to 5 A.M. on any given day;

(b) if not, the capacity utilisation of STD capacity in Hyderabad during 11 P.M. to 5 A.M. on any given day;

(c) whether Hyderabad Telecom proposes to increase STD capacity utilisation in that time frame; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The capacity utilisation of STD capacity from 11 P.M. to 12 P.M. is about 35%. During 00 hrs to 05 hrs the capacity utilisation is less than 10%.

(c) and (d) The tariff rates for STD calls are already reduced to 1/4th of the full rate during 11 P.M. to 6 AM, so that more persons are encouraged to rise the telephone during this period.

Opening up of STD Services

1797. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the plan panel is advocating opening up of STD services immediately;

(b) if so, whether the panel is aware that worldwide the expansion of the telecom network and increase in telephone density depends crucially on the systems capacity to cross-subsidise the local calls with the tariff generated from long distance calls; and

(c) if so, whether the opening up of the STD services is likely to facilitate strengthening of this cross subsidy and if so, its effect on the expansion of the network with a very low current teledensity?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. Planning Commission is not advocating

opening up of STD services immediately. As per the Guidelines already issued by the Government, the position regarding opening of long distance operation is to be reviewed in 1999.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telephone Tower at Shahapur in Thane District of Maharashtra

1798. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation for erecting a telephone tower at Shahapur in Thane district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government; and

(c) by when the work is expected to be started?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes Sir. The Government have received a representation to erect a Telephone Tower at Shahapur in Thane district of Maharashtra to connect Rural Exchanges of Shahapur Taluka to Taluka Headquarter.

(b) Shahapur Exchanges is already connected with a reliable media of 34 MS. Optical Fibre Media system. The other 7 small rural telephone exchanges at Shahapur are planned to be connected by Optical Fibre Cable Media.

(c) The work planned during 1997-98.

Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

1799. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of villages not having Post Offices in the State;

(c) the number of Post Offices proposed to be opened during current year 1996-97; and

(d) by when all villages in the State are likely to be provided with facility of Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The number of Villages having Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh is 14753.

(b) The number of Villages not having Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh is 12296.

(c) Five (5) Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices and two (2) Departmental Sub Post Offices have been opened during the current year.

(d) Post Offices are opened as Plan activity subject to availability of resources and fulfilment of norms.

MARR Phones in Andhra Pradesh

1800. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Madak, Adilabad, Nizamadad, Warangal and Karimnagar of Andhra Pradesh where MARR phones installed;

(b) the number of MARR phones working, District-wise;

(c) the number of MARR phones removed from villages, district wise, and reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal of reinstallation of MARR phones in the above villages; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR